



2019 Drums Along the Hudson Honorees Thomas Buckner and Kamala Cesar



Acknowledging the dedication and commitment of Kamala Cesar and Thomas Buckner to the cultural arts. Without them, events like Drums Along the Hudson and the enriching work of Lotus Music and Dance would not be possible.

Thomas Buckner. For decades, baritone Thomas Buckner has dedicated himself to the promotion and performance of new and improvised music, collaborating with a host of new music luminaries including Robert Ashley, Noah Creshevsky, Tom Hamilton, Earl Howard, Matthias Kaul, Leroy Jenkins, Bun Ching Lam, Annea Lockwood, Roscoe Mitchell, Phill Niblock, Wadada Leo Smith, Chinariy Ung, Christian Wolff and many others.

Buckner has appeared at Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, the Herbst Theatre, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Berlin Spring Festival, the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, the Prague Spring Festival, and the Angelica Festival of Bologna. He is featured on over 50 recordings, including 6 solo albums, the most recent being “New Music for Baritone & Chamber Ensemble,” which includes works by Annea Lockwood, Tania Leon, and Petr Kotik. Buckner also appears in the CD/DVD “Kirili et le Nymphéas (Hommage à Monet)” filmed at the Musée de l’Orangerie, Paris, which hosts Monet’s celebrated Water Lilies murals. For the past thirty years Thomas Buckner has curated the Interpretations series in New York City, and continues to produce recordings on the Mutable Music label, introducing current artists and repertoire, as well as presenting important historic material, previously unavailable in CD format.

Kamala Cesar is the Founder and Artistic Director of Lotus Music & Dance, a center for multicultural, traditional performing arts. She is one of the few specialists of T. Balasaraswati’s style of Bharata Natyam dance in this country and has been teaching since 1978. She has performed in Europe, India, the Philippines and the U.S. Ms. Cesar is Filipino and Mohawk Indian and resides in New York City where she teaches Bharata Natyam and directs Lotus Music & Dance’s efforts to produce and promote multicultural programs such as Drums Along the Hudson. In 2002, Kamala was honored as Thunderbird American Indian of the Year.

Her multicultural programs and productions include Mohawk Heartsong: Journey Through the Longhouse, Eagle Spirit: A Tribute to the Mohawk High Steelworkers, The New York Ramayana, Asian Dialogue, Along the Caravan Route, Message of Peace, World in the City, Dancing Across Cultural Borders and World Dance Festival 2015. Her most recent collaboration with George Faison’s Universal Dance Experience: Erasing Boundaries is being developed for a full length production.

In addition to her tireless activities in promoting and organizing Native American dance and cultural events, she has participated in the Mohawk Language Immersion Program at Kanatsiohareke in Fonda, NY from 1999 to 2005.